

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY INR/RNA:FHUDDLE:MRC

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AF:RBARRETT

RNA:PHSTODDARD

INR/DDR:MPACKMAN

NEA/ARN

M. DRAPER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T STATE 291504

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, IR, ET, IZ, IT

SUBJECT: IRANIAN INQUIRY ON CUBAN PRESENCE IN IRAQ,

SOUTH YEMEN AND ETHIOPIA

REF: TEHRAN 11403

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NO INFORMATION ABOUT COLOMBIAN
AMBASSADOR'S OBSERVATION OF A GROUP OF CUBANS DEPLANING
AT BAGHDAD EARLIER THIS MONTH, BUT SOURCES OF UNKNOWN
RELIABILITY REPORTED LAST SUMMER THE PRESENCE IN IRAQ OF
AT LEAST 150 CUBAN MILITARY INSTRUCTORS. GUERILLAS WHOM
CUBANS WERE TRAINING WERE REPORTEDLY SLATED TO OPERATE IN
LEBANON, NOT IN IRAN OR THE GULF.

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2. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF CUBANS IN SOUTH YEMEN (REF STATE 023191). AS OF MID-1976, THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 650 CUBAN ADVISORS THERE, WITH 50 MORE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE. EARLIER, THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT A SMALL GROUP OF IRANIAN DISSIDENTS WERE RECEIVING MILITARY TRAINING FROM CUBAN ADVISORS IN THE PDRY.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT CUBANS, OTHER THAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL, ARE ACTIVE IN ETHIOPIA. INASMUCH AS CUBANS ARE TRAINING SOMALIS, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD BE TRAINING ETHIOPIANS AS WELL.

4. THIS MATERIAL MAY BE PASSED TO THE IRANIANS AS IS.
ROBINSON

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NNN

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